

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Town Hall, Old Town Road
10:30 a.m.

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Marguerite Donnelly, Betsy Theve, Linda Spak, William Wilson, Sandra Kelly, Dorothy Graham and Mimi Leveille. Janet Merritt was absent. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Approve Minutes of September 15, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Theve moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2010 as submitted. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it carried.

8 Ayes (Wilson, Kelly, Theve, Pierce, Spak, Donnelly, Graham, Leveille) 0 Nays
1 Absent (Merritt)

Update on Activities:

Senior Aerobics

Senior aerobics is on hold, as the instructor Cindy Kelly is unavailable. Ms. Theve has sent a contact list of interested participants to Cindy Kelly for when she is ready to begin the program again. Ms. Donnelly stated that she would contact previous instructor Robin Lewis and ask if she would be willing to train a couple of volunteer instructors from the participants. Ms. Donnelly will act as the contact person.

Swimming Pool

Ms. Spak reported that Recreation Director Rob Closter will contact Meredith McAloon of the Neptune House regarding improving access to the pool with pool stairs.

Follow-up on Fall Activities

Walkers – Jean Valentine will act as the contact person and coordinator for the walking program.

Stoneridge – The Stoneridge trip was very successful, with eleven participants. Ms. Graham sent a thank you note to Stoneridge. A trip to Brightview at South County Commons combined with a trip to the movies was suggested for after the holidays. It was also suggested that the Committee ask the senior group what trips they would like.

Driving Course – The driving course was a great success, with 25 participants. It was suggested that another course be scheduled for the spring. From the audience, Shirley Kessler complimented the program.

Community Bulletin Board

Ms. Kelly explained that the Block Island Times is launching an interactive website called Village Soup which may have some crossover with the Community Bulletin Board. Ms. Kelly will research it further. Ms. Pierce stated that she did not see the Bulletin Board as being in competition with the Block Island Times site and suggested the Bulletin Board program be

launched. The Committee members agreed. Ms. Kelly explained that the Bulletin Board must be managed (authorizing new members, screening and allowing the blast emails). Ms. Graham suggested that Ms. Kelly document her time spent previously and going forward in the management of the system. Ms. Spak noted the need for a sign-up form with a list of guidelines for the program. Ms. Kelly stated that she would like to launch the program in the beginning of January.

The Committee amended the agenda to address certain New Business before Mr. Wilson and Ms. Leveille had to leave the meeting.

New Business:

Communication with Medical Center – Ms. Pierce stated that she had met with Monty Stover of the Medical Center regarding filling the need for a social worker on the island. He stated that he wanted to have a discussion with South County Community Action to see what services they can provide. She noted that they were in agreement that it may end up being a Town employee in the end.

Senior Advisory Committee Membership

Ms. Pierce noted that the terms of Bill Wilson, Dottie Graham and Marguerite Donnelly expire this December. She expressed her hope that all three members wished to continue to serve on the Committee. Mr. Wilson stated that he did not wish to continue to serve.

Mr. Wilson left the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Peter Souro from South County Community Action re: Medicare D -

It was noted that Peter Souro from South County Community Action was going to attend the December 17th Soup Group and give a presentation to the community regarding Medicare Part D prescription package.

Providing Seniors with Safety Devices (vote to cover costs)

Ms. Pierce explained that she bought ten safety lights at \$10.00 each. Discussion ensued regarding distribution of the lights and payment. It was decided to sell the lights for cost.

Ms. Leveille left the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

FISH

Ms. Pierce explained that the FISH program was proceeding along at the same rate it has in the past.

Bonny Ryan's Offer

Bonny Ryan of the Block Island Rescue Squad has offered to provide CPR/defibrillator training to the Soup Group and Lunch Bunch attendees and staff. Ms. Spak will contact Chris O'Neill of the Block Island Fire Department to explore fire extinguisher training.

Money Disbursement

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the funds in the Committee's budget. Ms. Pierce suggested putting on seminars or a symposium regarding senior issues. Issues brainstormed included health, safety, recreation, elder law, estate planning, and Medicare/Medicaid. The Department of Elderly Affairs and South County Community Action will be contacted for suggestions for possible presenters. Ms. Donnelly suggested using experts from other local organizations as presenters. Ms. Donnelly volunteered to put together a meeting of island organizations to discuss a possible symposium or workshop program.

Other items mentioned regarding funding were ferry tickets for trips and Bulletin Board funds.

Senior Moments

Gloria Redlich stated that she would put together a profile of a local senior for the Senior Moments article next month.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Next Meeting – December 15, 2010

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

At 11:46 a.m., Ms. Graham moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Theve and carried unanimously.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: December 15, 2010